

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 9684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB VE GW

SUBJECT: LABOR: CLAT AMBIVALENT REGARDING CALDERA CANDIDACY
FOR ILO DIRECTOR GENERALSHIP.

REF: STATE 221217 (NOTAL); CARACAS 9303.

1. MANFRED HUBER, RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION TO LATIN AMERICAN CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS (CLAT), HAS TOLD LABOR ATTACHE THAT CLAT LEADERSHIP HAS AMBIVALENT VIEWS TOWARD CANDIDACY OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CALDERA FOR DIRECTOR GENERALSHIP OF ILO. ON ONE HAND CALDERA IS RECOGNIZED AS DYNAMIC, FORCEFUL LEADER. ON OTHER HAND, IN SPITE OF HIS BACKGROUND AS LABOR LAWYER CLAT BELIEVES HE HAS DONE LITTLE TO IMPROVE STATUS OF VENEZUELAN LABOR DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE. PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTING TO CLAT IS CALDERA'S FAILURE TO INSTITUTE BASIC STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN VENEZUELAN SOCIETY WHICH WOULD GIVE LABOR GREATER SHARE OF NATIONAL INCOME.

2. GERMAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES COUNT VON SCHIRNDING STATES THAT FRG HAS NOT YET COME OUT IN FAVOR OF A CANDIDATE FOR ILO LEADERSHIP. NORMALLY THE FRG WOULD NOTIFY ITS EMBASSIES WHENEVER A DECISION IS MADE TO BACK A CANDIDATE FOR A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICE AND IN THIS CASE NO INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

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3. PRINCIPAL CLAT LEADERS EMILIO MASPERO AND HENRY MOLINA

ARE, AS USUAL, TRAVELLING OUTSIDE VENEZUELA AND UNAVAILABLE.

4. HUBER SPOKE FRANKLY OF HIS NEARLY COMPLETE DISILLUSIONMENT WITH CLAT LEADERSHIP. HE SAID HE EXPECTED TO QUIT HIS JOB WITH THE ADENAUER FOUNDATION IN 1974 AND RETURN TO FRG TO ENTER POLITICS WHILE HE IS STILL YOUNG ENOUGH TO DO SO. HUBER SAID GERMANS HAD SPOILED CLAT LEADERSHIP BY PROVIDING TOO MUCH MONEY AND COMMENTED THAT SUREST WAY TO DESTROY EFFECTIVENESS OF CLAT ALTOGETHER WOULD BE TO DOUBLE THEIR SUBSIDY. HE INDICATED HE HAS LITTLE INFLUENCE WITH CLAT'S LEADERSHIP WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS IDEOLOGICALLY HIDEBOUND. HUBER COMPLAINED THAT MASPERO IS UNCONCERNED WITH OBTAINING SHORT-TERM PRAGMATIC GAINS FOR WORKERS AND INSTEAD IS AWAITING THE EXPECTED COLLAPSE OF PRESENT ECONOMIC STRUCTURE IN ORDER TO BUILD NEW SYSTEM BASED ON SOCIAL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE.
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